

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for distributing data among a plurality of data storage systems comprising:

~~obtaining and storing selection criteria;~~

producing profile information for a first data object that is stored in a first data storage system, said profile information comprising content-based information associated with said first data object;

communicating said profile information to at least one second data storage system; and

receiving a selection indication from said second data storage system, wherein the selection indication is based upon selection criteria maintained at said second data storage system; and

selectively copying said first data object to said second data storage system based on said selection indication and said profile information, ~~based on said selection criteria and on said profile information,~~

wherein said first data object is copied to said second data storage system depending on content-based information associated with said first data object.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first data storage system comprises a server component in communication with a data storage component.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said second data storage system comprises a server component in communication with a data storage component.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving at said first data storage system a selection indication from each of ~~said~~
a plurality of second data storage systems, wherein said selection indication is an interest metric;
producing an ordered set of said plurality of second data storage systems, ordered
according to said interest metric; and
communicating said first data object to the first N of said second data storage
systems in said ordered set.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said selection
indication is an interest metric, said method further comprising:
~~receiving at said first data storage system a selection indication from each of said~~
~~second data storage systems, wherein said selection indication is an interest metric;~~
communicating said first data object to a second data storage system if its interest
metric exceeds a predetermined threshold.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~said method further~~
~~comprising receiving at said first data storage system a selection indication from each of said~~
~~second data storage systems~~, wherein said selection indication indicates whether or not to
communicate said first data object to said second data storage system.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein if said first data
object is not copied to ~~any other~~ a second data storage system, then determining a replication site
from among said ~~other~~ second data storage systems independently of content of said first data
object and copying said first data object to said replication site.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 18 wherein said selection
criteria are stored in said first data storage system, said method further comprising
communicating said first data object to said second data storage system based on said profile
information and on said selection criteria.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising additional selection criteria for an additional second data storage system, said method further comprising communicating said first data object to said additional second data storage system based on said profile information and said additional selection criteria.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~4~~ 18 wherein said selection criteria are stored in a selection server system separate from said first data storage system and from said second data storage system, said method further comprising:

communicating said profile information to said selection server system; and
~~producing in said selection server system a selection indication; and~~
~~communication said selection indication to said first data storage system;~~
receiving a selection indication from said selection server system,

wherein said first data object is selectively communicated to said second data storage system depending on said selection indication.

12. (Currently amended) A distributed data storage system comprising a plurality of data servers, each data server comprising:

a client interface component configured for communication with one or more clients to exchange data;

a data storage interface component configured for data communication with a data storage component; and

a data processing component configured to:

produce profile information associated with a first data object that is stored in said data storage component, said profile information comprising content-based information associated with content of said first data object;

communicate said profile information to a plurality of candidate data servers;

receive a selection indication from each of said candidate data servers; and

copy said first data object to one or more of said candidate data servers
based on selection indications received from said candidate data servers,
wherein a selection indication is produced by a candidate data server and is based
on selection criteria stored in said candidate data server and on said profile information.
~~initiate a comparison of selection criteria with said profile information,~~
~~said selection criteria comprising criteria associated with at least a second data server,~~
~~said selection criteria used to determine whether said first data object is copied to said at~~
~~least a second data server; and~~
~~copy said first data object to said at least a second data server depending~~
~~on an outcome of said comparison.~~

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The data storage system of claim 12 wherein said selection indication is a metric that is based on selection criteria and on said profile information.

15. (Previously presented) The data storage system of claim 12 wherein said selection indication is a binary indicator that indicates whether or not to copy said first data object to said second data server.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method for distributing data among a plurality of data storage systems comprising:

obtaining ~~and storing~~ selection criteria in a first data storage system;
producing profile information for a first data object that is stored in said first data storage system, said profile information comprising content-based information associated with said first data object; and
~~communicating said profile information to at least one second data storage~~
~~system; and~~

selectively copying said first data object to said at least one second data storage system based on said selection criteria and on said profile information,
wherein said first data object is copied to said second data storage system depending on content-based information associated with said first data object.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising receiving, at said first data storage system, said selection criteria from one or more data storage systems other than said first data storage system.

20. (Previously presented) A data system comprising:
a plurality of data centers; and
a plurality of client systems in data communication with said data centers,
each data center comprising:
a data storage component;
a file server component operable to exchange data between a client system and said data storage component;
a replicator component;
a receiver component; and
file selection criteria,
wherein said replicator component is operable to produce profile data for a data object that is to be replicated among one or more candidate target data centers, to communicate said profile data to at least one of said candidate target data centers, to receive a selection indication from each of said candidate target data centers, and to selectively communicate said data object to a candidate target data center based on its selection indication, said profile data representative of content of said data object,
wherein said receiver component is operable to receive profile data information from a source data center, said receiver component further operable to communicate a selection indication to said source data center based on said file selection criteria and on said profile data.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said selection indication is an interest metric that is determined based on said file selection criteria and on said profile data, wherein said replicator component is further operable to communicate said data object to a candidate data center based on its interest metric, wherein said candidate target data centers are ordered to produce an ordered set based on their corresponding interest metrics and said replicator component is further operable to communicate said data object to the first N target data centers selected from said ordered set.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said selection indication is an interest metric that is determined based on said file selection criteria and on said profile data, wherein said replicator component is further operable to communicate said data object to a candidate data center based on its interest metric, wherein said replicator component communicates said data object to a candidate target center if its interest metric exceeds a predetermined threshold.

23. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said selection indication is an indication of whether or not to communicate said data object to said candidate target data center.

24. (Previously presented) A data system comprising:
a plurality of data centers; and
a plurality of client systems in data communication with said data centers,
each data center comprising:
a data storage component;
a file server component operable to exchange data between a client system
and said data storage component;
a replicator component; and
a collection of selection criteria comprising selection criteria provided
from other data centers,

wherein said replicator component is operable to produce profile data for a data object that is to be replicated among one or more candidate target data centers, to communicate said profile data to at least one of said candidate target data centers, and to selectively communicate said data object to said candidate target data centers based on said profile data and selection criteria corresponding to each of said candidate target data centers, said profile data representative of content of said data object.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein said replicator module is operable to produce based on said collection selection criteria and on said profile data a plurality of interest metrics, each interest metric corresponding a data center, wherein said candidate target data centers are ordered to produce an ordered set based on their corresponding interest metrics, wherein said replicator component is further operable to communicate said data object to the first N target data centers selected from said ordered set.

26. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein said replicator module is operable to produce based on said collection selection criteria and on said profile data a plurality of interest metrics, each interest metric corresponding a data center, wherein said replicator component communicates said data object to a candidate target center if its interest metric exceeds a predetermined threshold.

27-28. (Canceled)